

To Whom it May Concern:

I oppose Bill HB 5537 section 42 (6).

I am a Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst and I oppose this bill for many reasons.

1. ABA is not currently within the scope of practice of Speech Language Pathologists. Speech Language Pathologists are not required to take any classes in behavior analysis, nor do they have any training or experience requirements related to the provision of behavior analytic services as part of their training to become SLP's.

2. Consumers of ABA services would be negatively impacted by this modification to an SLP's scope of practice.

Behavior Analysis and the scope of practice of Behavior Analysts has been defined in existing CT legislation, and this expansion of an SLP's scope of practice would negatively impact other professionals including but not limited to Board Certified Behavior Analysts and School Psychologists.

3. Any proposed expansion of an SLP's scope of practice must first be reviewed in accordance with Public Act 11-209, An Act Concerning the Department of Health's Oversight Responsibilities Relating to Scope of Practice Determinations for Health Care Professionals.

As a BCaBA working in several different public school settings, I do not know one of the many Speech and Language Pathologists who is supporting this bill. Not one feels that they are competent and have the necessary training to oversee behavior analytic programs. Again, this bill is not in the best interest of the Speech pathologists, behavior analysts and most importantly our clients.

I urge you to oppose Bill HB 5537 section 42 (6).

Sincerely,
Courtney Rinaldi, M.S., BCaBA
Guilford, CT